

Environmental Health Specialist (EHS) 5 – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention EHS-Network (CDCs EHS-Net) Grant

Nashville, TN

Who we are and how we impact Tennessee:

TDH incorporates our values into the work we do each day to achieve our mission, live our vision and address our two strategic priorities of prevention and access.

Mission:

Protect, promote, and improve the health and prosperity of people in Tennessee.

Vision:

- Healthy People
- Healthy Communities
- Healthy Tennessee

Our Values:

- Collaboration
- Excellence
- Integrity
- Compassion
- Respect
- Health Equity

Strategic Priorities:

Prevention:

- Support Local Leadership
- Decrease Youth Obesity
- Decrease Tobacco Use
- Decrease Substance Misuse
- Prevent and Mitigate Adverse Childhood Experiences

Access:

- Optimize Internal Clinical Efficiency
- Improve External Primary Care Access
- Leverage Innovation
- Expand Partnerships

[TN State Careers](#)

Job Overview:

The EHS-5 will serve on the Foodborne and Enteric Diseases Program within the Tennessee Department of Health's (TDH) Division of Communicable and Environmental Diseases and Emergency Preparedness (CEDEP). The EHS-5 will participate in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) EHS-Net program. EHS-Net is a [collaborative forum](#) of environmental health specialists that researches restaurant food safety policies and practices. The EHS-5 will develop and conduct CDC and TDH food safety studies, provide environmental assessment support during foodborne illness outbreaks, and provide foodborne outbreak training within the state and in the TN Integrated Food Safety Centers of Excellence (CoE) catchment area.

The EHS-5 will offer environmental health support to the Rapid Response Teams (RRT) funded program. The candidate's experience in environmental assessments, data collection, and environmental sampling techniques will be used to guide and support activities led by the RRT coordinator. Additionally, the EHS-5 will collaborate with TDH's Environmental Health Program and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture to ensure the RRT coordinator has the appropriate resources to fulfill grant requirements.

The EHS-5 will liaise with laboratory and epidemiology during foodborne outbreak investigations and provide outbreak investigation trainings to regional health department staff. The position will be based in the middle Tennessee region.

Salary: Based on education and experience, with a minimum starting rate of \$4,737 per month.

Key responsibilities:

- Develop, conduct, and publish food safety studies with the nation's CDC EHS-Net consortium
- Develop, conduct, and publish Tennessee specific food safety studies with TN EHS-Net team
- Present study findings to state partners and at national conferences
- Provide environmental assessment support throughout Tennessee during enteric disease outbreak investigations
- Serve as a back-up to the RRT Coordinator

- Liaise with federal, state, and local partners during enteric disease outbreak investigations
- Liaise with laboratory and epidemiology team during enteric disease outbreak investigations
- Maintain environmental sampling inventory
- Monitor and maintain TDH's foodborne illness complaint system
- Provide foodborne outbreak training to TDH health regions and to states in the CoE catchment area
- Ability to travel for trainings and conferences 3-6 times per year
- Ability to travel within the EHS-Net data capture areas in middle Tennessee
- Ability to travel within the state to provide environmental assessment support during foodborne outbreak investigations

Minimum Qualifications

Education and Experience: Graduation from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree, including at least 36 quarter hours in biology, chemistry, or any environmental science and experience equivalent to four years of any full-time work in the enforcement of an environmental program or any professional environmental program work.

Substitution of Education for Experience: Graduate course work in an environmental science, biology, or chemistry field may be substituted for the required experience, on a year-for-year basis; to the maximum of one year (e.g., 36 quarter hours is equivalent to one year).

OR

Four years of any full-time work in the enforcement of an environmental program or any professional environmental program work with the State of Tennessee.

Substitution of Experience for Education: Any qualifying full-time work in the enforcement of an environmental program or any professional environmental program work may be substituted for the required education, on a year-for-year basis, to a maximum of four years.

Other Requirements

Necessary Special Qualifications: A valid motor vehicle operator's license may be required for some positions.

Examination Method: Education and Experience, 100%, for Preferred Service positions.

Note: A transcript is required for a proper evaluation for this class.

To apply: Complete application process through tn.gov/careers.

Pursuant to the State of Tennessee's Workplace Discrimination and Harassment policy, the State is firmly committed to the principle of fair and equal employment opportunities for its citizens and strives to protect the rights and opportunities of all people to seek, obtain, and hold employment without being subjected to illegal discrimination and harassment in the workplace. It is the State's policy to provide an environment free of discrimination and harassment of an individual because of that person's race, color, national origin, age (40 and over), sex, pregnancy, religion, creed, disability, veteran's status or any other category protected by state and/or federal civil rights laws.